1: Linton E-5 (1926-27) 1933 FYS Tanala FYS

for mat weaving, etc.; and receive their friends there, but sleep in the house with their parents. Boys live in it, coming to the father's house only for meals. All the children of a family use the house in common, but the eldest has a prior right. When the eldest son marries, he usually takes this house as his dwelling and a new one is built for the remaining children. 343 883

Every establishment with adolescent children has a house of this sort. The Tanala explain it as a defensive measure on the part of the parents. The young people have many visitors who would be in the parents' way if they received them in the main dwelling.

CHASTITY

In spite of the free association between adolescents and the almost complete lack of chaperonage, girls are usually chaste before marriage and sometimes retain their virginity to the age of twenty. Chastity in itself does not seem to increase greatly a girl's desirability, but girls are taught that intercourse at a too early age, and especially promiscuity, are likely to lead to sterility. 836

Among the Tanala Menabe the standard for married women seems to be somewhat lower and a wife's unfaithfulness is taken rather lightly. The husband has the legal right to divorce her for it, but will not do so unless he has tired of her. He will scold or even beat her, but the matter soon blows over. He may beat her lover, if he is strong enough and angry enough, but he cannot bring a legal action against him or collect damages. At the same time, wife lending seems to be unknown. The Tanala Ikongo take unfaithfulness rather more seriously and usually divorce for it. This is probably due to their contact with the southeast coast tribes, who have a strong feeling against it. 837

Premarital chastity on the part of a man would be taken as a confession of impotence and would make it difficult for him to find a wife. After marriage the standard for men is still low, except that they are expected to be faithful during a wife's pregnancy. 836

INCEST

Incest is a very serious crime, highly offensive to the gods and ancestors. Although a first offense may be compounded by a special ceremony and sacrifice, a second or third offense is usually punished by disownment and expulsion from the gens. There also seems to be an unformulated belief that it affects the fertility of the lineage as a whole and may even injure its crops and limit the increase 684